

Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Board
Employment & Skills Board
Report from Jayne Adamson, Chair, Employment & Skills Board
Report on 25th November 2021
Paper E

1. Summary

1.1 This paper summarises the progress made by the HEY LEP Employment & Skills Board and Employment & Skills team since the LEP Board meeting held on 30th September 2021.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The board notes the progress made by the Employment & Skills team.

3. Employment & Skills Board

3.1 The inaugural HEY LEP Employment & Skills Board was held on Thursday 21st October.

3.2 The Board ratified its Terms of Reference and agreed the supporting working group structure.

3.3 The first initiative being taken forward by the Board is a HEY LEP workplace health / Good Work initiative. The first phase of this will focus on creating a repository of health & wellbeing resources for employers to support workplace productivity. HEY LEP will use existing Skills Support for the Workforce (SSW) funding to develop a HEY Workforce web portal linked to the Growth Hub to provide an online resource for employers in the region. Work has commenced on the workplace wellbeing aspect of this portal. HETA has offered a secondment to support the development of the wellbeing aspect, building on the work they have done regarding physical and mental health in the education and training environment.

3.4 Future meetings are scheduled to take place on:

- Monday 6th December 2021
- Monday 21st February 2022
- Monday 25th April 2022
- Monday 27th July 2022

3.5 Full minutes of the meeting are attached at appendix 1.

4. Employment & Skills Board Working Groups

4.1 As detailed in paragraph 3.2, the Employment & Skills Board has approved the creation of five working groups to support the Board in achieving its aims and objectives. These are:

- Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) - Advancing the HEY LEP, all-age career offer.
- Apprenticeship and Technical Education - Addressing development needs in the apprenticeship and technical education landscape.
- Talent Forum - HR professionals who provide informal advice, guidance and labour market insight.
- Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership (LDSP) – A Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) pilot. A continuation of the previous Humber LEP LDSP.
- Skills Network – For wider consultation with all HEY LEP employment & skills stakeholders.

5. Skills Advisory Panel Programme

5.1 The Employment & Skills Team commissioned “Energy and Utility Skills” to undertake a “Green Jobs/Skills Analysis” to deepen our understanding of the current green skills landscape across the Hull and East Yorkshire area. The emerging findings from the research so far will be shared with stakeholders from across the Humber region at a MS Teams workshop on 18th November 2021 and the final report and recommendations will be presented at December’s Employment and Skills Board. The report will inform the refreshed Local Skills Report and future Employment and Skills Strategy.

5.2 A refresh of the Local Skills Report (LSR) has been commissioned and will be published by 28th January 2022 as required by the Department for Education (DfE). The evidence and data in this new report will also be used in the new Employment and Skills Strategy.

6. Humber Freeport

6.1 Since the Humber Freeport’s official announced in the government’s autumn budget, the HEY LEP Employment & Skills team has met with the Freeport project lead and consultancy support team to progress this, specifically the requirements of the skills section of the full business case.

7. Economic Recovery Report

7.1 The HEY LEP recently commissioned a piece of research into the HEY LEP region's post-COVID economic recovery.

7.2 The findings have been shared with the Humber Local Resilience Forum and will also be shared with the HEY LEP sub-boards to inform their work.

8. Careers & Enterprise Company

8.1 Since the last report, the Careers hub has undertaken the following activity:

- A day of activity tied to COP26 around sustainability projects for schools
- Information sessions to schools related to employers' activities
- Regular update meetings with schools
- A "Cornerstone Employer" (local employers who commit to improving careers and employability provision through the Careers Hub) meeting and planning for forthcoming activities.

8.2 Local governance arrangements continue to be in place. The Steering Group has been refreshed and both Local Authorities have had the opportunity to be central to these discussions. New Terms of Reference were approved at the first meeting on 13 October and the Strategic plan was shared for consultation.

9. Quality in Careers Standard

9.1 Schools and colleges continue to work towards the Quality in Careers Standard. In the last period, two schools have successfully obtained the Quality in Careers Standard and one is awaiting a further action for them to achieve it.

10. The Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership

10.1 The HEY LEP was invited to attend a "Levelling up through tech growth and improving digital skills" event on 30th September, hosted by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) as part of the Leeds Digital Festival programme. The Employment & Skills Manager represented the HEY LEP at the event which took place at Nexus, the Innovation Hub for The University of Leeds.

- 10.2 DCMS were present to launch two recent government research documents: a [Local Digital Skills Partnerships Evaluation](#) report looking at the effectiveness and impact of Digital Skills Partnerships since their inception as well as a report on the UK's regional [Digital Ecosystems](#).
- 10.3 Senior Civil Servants from the Department for Digital Media Culture and Sport (DCMS) were invited to the region to take part in the Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership steering group meeting which took place on 8th November to provide insights into the government's Digital and Tech policy. The importance of continued collaboration and partnership working to close digital skills gaps, was highlighted.
- 10.4 The visit was in recognition of the Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership recently joining the government's seven other established LDSPs.
- 10.5 During the steering group meeting, members discussed the future scope and terms of reference of the Humber LDSP. A draft action plan was identified for the coming year and will be implemented by the group.
- 10.6 Plans are underway for the official launch of the Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership which the Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy is expected to attend. The event will take place on Monday 13th December.

11. Staffing update

- 11.1 The Employment & Skills team is in the final stages of recruiting to the post of "Workforce Development Business Advisor". The role aims to increase local apprenticeship opportunities by assisting local businesses to access apprenticeship grant funding, facilitating unspent levy transfer across local supply chains, creating work placement capacity for traineeships and vocational learning and promoting T-Levels.

12. Wider stakeholder engagement for the reporting period

- 12.1 Over this reporting period, the Employment & Skills team have met with several key stakeholders to introduce the work of the HEY LEP and explore areas of potential collaboration around employment and skills related aims and objectives. These include:

- Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)
- CIPD Regional team

- Public Health England Regional team
- NHS Humber Coast & Vale Workforce Development Board
- National LEP Network
- North East LEP
- Humber Local Resilience Forum
- NP11
- Humber Principals Group (post-16 providers)
- Yorkshire & Humber Apprenticeship Ambassador Network
- Greater Lincolnshire LEP